

CLAIMS

I Claim:

1 1. A system comprising:
2 office equipment that includes a display, a display being used by the
3 office equipment to provide status as to operation of the office equipment;
4 a computing system, in communication with the office equipment, the
5 computing system for obtaining information unrelated to operation of the
6 office equipment, and for causing the office equipment to display the
7 information in place of a status message.

1 2. A system as in claim 1 wherein the office equipment is at least one of
2 the following:
3 a printer;
4 a scanner;
5 a fax machine;
6 a telephone; and,
7 a telephone answering machine.

1 3. A system as in claim 1 wherein the computing system obtains
2 information from a site on a network.

1 4. A system as in claim 1 wherein the computing system obtains
2 information from an internet site.

1 5. A system as in claim 1 wherein the computing system obtains
2 information from another computing system which requests display of the
3 information.

1 6. A method comprising:
2 (a) obtaining, by a computing system, information unrelated to
3 operation of office equipment;
4 (b) generating, by the computing system, instructions to the office
5 equipment to display the information;
6 (c) sending the instructions from the computing system to the office
7 equipment; and,
8 (d) displaying the information by the office equipment that on a display
9 used by the office equipment to provide status as to operation of the office
10 equipment, the information being displayed in place of a status message.

1 7. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (a) the office equipment is at
2 least one of the following:
3 a printer;
4 a scanner;

5 a fax machine;
6 a telephone; and,
7 a telephone answering machine.

1 8. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (a) the computing system
2 obtains information from a site on a network.

1 9. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (a) the computing system
2 obtains information from an internet site.

1 10. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (a) the computing system
2 obtains information from another computing system which requests display of
3 the information.

1 11. A computing system comprising:
2 first communication means for obtaining information unrelated to
3 operation of office equipment;
4 processing means for translating the information into instructions to
5 the office equipment to display the information on a display used by the office
6 equipment to provide status as to operation of the office equipment, wherein
7 the instructions instruct the office equipment to display the information in
8 place of a status message; and,

9 second communication means for sending the instructions from the
10 computing system to the office equipment.

1 12. A computing system as in claim 11 wherein the office equipment is
2 at least one of the following:
3 a printer;
4 a scanner;
5 a fax machine;
6 a telephone; and,
7 a telephone answering machine.

1 13. A computing system as in claim 11 wherein the first connection
2 means provides connection of the computing system to a site on a network.

1 14. A computing system as in claim 11 wherein the first connection
2 means provides connection of the computing system to an internet site.

1 15. A computing system as in claim 11 wherein the first connection
2 means provides connection of the computing system to another computing
3 system which requests display of the information.